GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2451
ANSWERED ON:17.03.2008
EXPLOITATION OF CHILD LABOURERS
Murmu Shri Hemlal

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Labour Commissioners have recently conducted an inspection regarding exploitation and atrocities against the child labourers in the country;

(b) if so, the number of persons found guilty alongwith the action taken against them, State-wise;

(c) whether the children engaged in the agriculture and farming sector and employed in more strenuous physical work in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken to free and rehabilitate such children?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES)

(a) & (b): Inspections and raids to detect cases of violation of Child Labour (Prohibition &Regulation) Act, 1986, are carried out from time to time by the State Governments who areappropriate authorities for enforcement of Act,in the areas that come under their jurisdiction.For the areas lying under the Central jurisdiction,inspections are carried out by the CentralLabour Commissioner's machinery. The information pertaining to inspections,violations,convictionsand prosecutions during 2006-07 as provided by the State Governments is at Annexure.

(c) & (d): Yes, Sir. Children are employed in agriculture and farming sector.However,employment ofchildren in agriculture is not prohibited under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act,1986 except in the processes where tractors, threshing and harvesting machines are used and chaffcutting is involved as also handling of insecticides and pesticides. For the rehabilitation ofChild Labour, Government is implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme. Under the Scheme, children withdrawn from work are put into special schools, where they are providedwith accelerated bridging education, vocational training, nutrition, stipend and health carefacilities etc.